

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SSM-05 ACDA-12 AID-05
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4531
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

UNCLAS LONDON 04756

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNSC, XF, MARR, MOPS, LE, IS, UK
SUBJECT: UK PARLIAMENT DISCUSSION ON MIDDLE EAST
POLICY

1. BRITISH POLICY IN THE CURRENT MIDDLE EAST CRISIS
CAME UP DURING THE QUESTION PERIOD IN PARLIAMENT
MARCH 22. REGARDING THE ISRAELI ATTACK, OWEN STATED,
"I DO NOT BELIEVE INTERNATIONAL PEACE IS HELPED BY
RETALIATORY ACTION, BUT IT WOULD BE IDLE TO PRETEND
THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE WERE NOT
CRUELLY PROVOKED." OWEN STATED BRITAIN WOULD PROVIDE
LOGISTIC SUPPORT TO UNIFIL AND ADDED "WE HAVE ALREADY
TAKEN STEPS TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY RELIEF" TO THE
LEBANESE REFUGEES FROM THE FIGHTING.

2. IN RESPONSE TO A DEMAND FROM PRO-ARAB CONSERVATIVE
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DENNIS WALTERS THAT HE "REPUDIATE" BEGIN'S POSITION
ON SC RES 242, OWEN REPLIED "IT HAS BEEN THE VIEW OF
SUCCESSIVE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS THAT WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL
THREE AREAS - GOLAN, THE WEST BANK, AND SINAI - IS PART
OF THE INTERPRETATION OF 242."

3. HUGH FRASER, LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE FRIENDS OF

ISRAEL, STATED THAT "THE FRENCH HAVE OFFERED A PARACHUTE BATTALION TO UNIFIL," AND COMMENTED, "SURELY WE COULD GO FURTHER THAN OFFERING SUPPORT FACILITIES FROM CYPRUS." OWEN REPLIED, "WE WERE ASKED TO PROVIDE LOGISTIC SUPPORT AND WE HAVE GIVEN WHAT WE THOUGHT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE. THE ADVANTAGE OF WHAT WE HAVE IN CYPRUS IS THAT WE ARE ALREADY PROVIDING LOGISTIC SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS FORCES THERE. BUT IT IS CONVENIENT IN TERMS OF AIRFIELDS AND PORTS FOR SOUTHERN LEBANON. IT WILL PROVIDE A SAFE AND SECURE SUPPORT BASE WHICH WILL MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS TO THE STABILITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORCE."

4. MEANWHILE, THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE INITIAL SHIPMENT OF RELIEF SUPPLIES CONSISTS OF 150 FAMILY-SIZE TENTS AND 4,000 BLANKETS BEING FLOWN TO BEIRUT MARCH 24.

STREATOR

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NNN

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